

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: <u>METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING FIBRILLATION AND CREATING DEFIBRILLATION WAYEFORMS</u>.

The specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (attached hereto). I also acknowledge my duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability which became available between a filing date of a prior application and the national or PCT international filing date in the event this is a Continuation-In-Part application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(e).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patient or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patient or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 or 365(c) of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

15

Serial No. not assigned Filing Date: not assigned

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

| Adams, Gregory J. Adams, Matthew W. Anglin, J. Michael Arora, Suneel Bianchi, Timothy E. Billion, Richard E. Black, David W. Brennan, Thomas F. Brooks, Edward J., III Chu, Dinh C.P. Clark, Barbara J. Dahl, John M. Drake, Eduardo E. Eliseeva, Maria M. Embretson, Janet E. | Reg. No. P-44,494 Reg. No. 43,459 Reg. No. 24,916 Reg. No. 42,267 Reg. No. 39,610 Reg. No. 32,836 Reg. No. 42,331 Reg. No. 35,075 Reg. No. 40,925 Reg. No. P-41,676 Reg. No. 88,107 Reg. No. P-44,639 Reg. No. 40,594 Reg. No. 43,328 Reg. No. 39,665 Reg. No. 35,113 | Forrest, Bradley A. Harris, Robert J. Holloway, Sheryl S. Huebsch, Joseph C. Jurkovich, Patti J. Kalis, Janal M. Kaufmann, John D. KJima-Silberg, Catherine I. Kluth, Daniel J. Lacy, Rodney L. Leffert, Thomas W. Lemaire, Charles A. Litman, Mark A. Lundberg, Steven W. Mack, Lisa K. | Reg. No. 30,837 Reg. No. 37,346 Reg. No. 37,850 Reg. No. 42,673 Reg. No. 24,4813 Reg. No. 24,017 Reg. No. 24,017 Reg. No. 32,146 Reg. No. 41,136 Reg. No. 40,697 Reg. No. 36,198 Reg. No. 26,390 Reg. No. 26,390 Reg. No. 42,825 | Mates, Robert E. McCrackin, Ann M. Nama, Kash Nielsen, Walter W. Oh, Allen J. Padys, Danny J. Parker, J. Kevin Peacock, Gregg A. Polglaze, Daniel J. Schwegman, Micheal L. Sieffert, Kent J. Slifer, Russell D. Steffey, Charles E. Terry, Kathleen R. Viksnins, Ann S. | Reg. No. 35,271 Reg. No. 42,858 Reg. No. 44,255 Reg. No. 25,539 Reg. No. 35,635 Reg. No. 33,024 Reg. No. 9-45,001 Reg. No. 25,816 Reg. No. 41,312 Reg. No. 39,838 Reg. No. 25,179 Reg. No. 31,884 Reg. No. 37,748 Reg. No. 37,748 |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| Embretson, Janet E. Fogg, David N. Fordenbacher, Paul J. | Reg. No. 39,665 Reg. No. 35,138 Reg. No. 42,546 | Mack, Lisa K. Maki, Peter C. Malen, Peter L. | Reg. No. 42,825 Reg. No. 42,832 Reg. No. P-44,894 | Viksnins, Ann S. Woessner, Warren D. | Reg. No. 37,748 Reg. No. 30,440 |

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/ firm/organization/who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. to the contrary.

| Pleas | e direct all correspondence in this case to Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. at the address indicated below: P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 |
|-------|--|
| T. | P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 |
| (n | Telephone No. (612)373-6900 |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so

| | e; and further that these statements were ma | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| | or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1 | | States Code and that such willful false |
| statements may jeopardize the | he validity of the application or any patent | issued thereon. | |
| Fill Name of joint inventor | number 1: Leo Rubin | | |
| Cifizenship: | United States of America | Residence: Suffern, NY | |
| Post Office Address: | 3 Lynne Court | | |
| <u> </u> | Suffern, NY 10901 | | • |
| Signature: | o Veylein MD | Date: | 7/30/99 |
| • | Leo Rubin | | |
| | | | |
| Full Name of joint inventor | number 2: Christopher A. Bonnerup | | |
| Citizenship: | United States of America | Residence: Alvin, TX | |
| Post Office Address: | 5101 Aurora | | |
| | Alvin, TX 77511 | | |
| | | D () | |
| Signature: | | Date: | |

X Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets, attached hereto.

Christopher A. Bonnerup

Attorney Docket No.: 1080.311US1

Serial No. not assigned Filing Date: not assigned

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of joint inventor number 3: Edward A. Schroeppel

Citizenship:

United States of America

Residence: Lake Jackson, TX

Post Office Address:

215 Dewberry Drive

Lake Jackson, TX 77566

| Signature: | | Date: | |
|------------|----------------------|-------|--|
| 8 | Edward A. Schroeppel | | |

=

=

: 2

١D

n

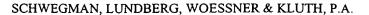
W

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- (a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
 - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

Aprima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.



United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: <u>METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING FIBRILLATION</u> <u>AND CREATING DEFIBRILLATION WAVEFORMS</u>.

The specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (attached hereto). I also acknowledge my duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability which became available between a filing date of a prior application and the national or PCT international filing date in the event this is a Continuation-In-Part application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(e).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 or 365(c) of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

| Attorney Docket No.: 1080.311U | JS 1 |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Serial No. not assigned | |
| ru n | |

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/ firm/organization/who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. at the address indicated below: P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 in Telephone No. (612)373-6900

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and I hereby declare that all statements made never of my own knowledge are allocated and allocated the belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

| Full Name of joint inventor | number 1: Leo Rubin | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Chizenship: | United States of America | Residence: Suffern, NY |
| Post Office Address: | 3 Lynne Court Suffern, NY 10901 | |
| Signature: | | Date: |

Full Name of joint inventor number 2: Christopher A. Bonnerup

Leo Rubin

Citizenship:

United States of America

Residence: Alvin, TX

Post Office Address:

5101 Aurora Alvin, TX 77511

Signature:

TU.

Date:

F.31.99

X Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets, attached hereto.

Attorney Docket No.: 1080.311US1 Serial No. not assigned

Filing Date: not assigned

Post Office Address:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so

| <u> </u> | mprisonment, or both, under Section 100 slidity of the application or any patent issues. | 1 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that ued thereon. | such willful false |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Full Name of joint inventor number | ber 3: Edward A. Schroeppel | | |
| Citizenship: | United States of America | Residence: Lake Jackson, TX | |

215 Dewberry Drive Lake Jackson, TX 77566

| Signature: | | Date: | |
|------------|----------------------|-------|--|
| | Edward A. Schroeppel | | |

FU 14 Can day day the test that

ļå

Attorney Docket No.: 1080.311US1 Serial No. not assigned

ζħ ſΠ

M

U W

Filing Date: not assigned

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
 - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the pteponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are: <u>i_(</u>c)
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, (d) agent, or inventor.





SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: <u>METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING FIBRILLATION</u> AND CREATING DEFIBRILLATION WAVEFORMS.

The specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (attached hereto). I also acknowledge my duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability which became available between a filing date of a prior application and the national or PET international filing date in the event this is a Continuation-In-Part application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(e).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 or 365(c) of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

No such claim for priority is being made at this time.

| Attorney | Docket No.: | 1080.311US1 |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Serial No | not accione | d |

Serial No. not assigned Filing Date: not assigned

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

| Adams, Gregory J. Adams, Matthew W. Anglin, J. Michael Arora, Suneel Bianchi, Timothy E. Billion, Richard E. Black, David W. Brennan, Thomas F. Brooks, Edward J., III Chu, Dinh C.P. Clark, Barbara J. Dahl, John M. Drake, Eduardo E. Eliseeva, Maria M. Embretson, Janet E. Fogg, David N. | Reg. No. P-44,494 Reg. No. 43,459 Reg. No. 24,916 Reg. No. 39,610 Reg. No. 32,836 Reg. No. 42,331 Reg. No. 35,075 Reg. No. 40,925 Reg. No. P-41,676 Reg. No. 38,107 Reg. No. P-44,639 Reg. No. 40,594 Reg. No. 43,328 Reg. No. 43,328 Reg. No. 39,665 Reg. No. 35,138 | Forrest, Bradley A. Harris, Robert J. Holloway, Sheryl S. Huebsch, Joseph C. Jurkovich, Patti J. Kalis, Janal M. Kaufmann, John D. Klima-Silberg, Catherine I. Kluth, Daniel J. Lacy, Rodney L. Leffert, Thomas W. Lemaire, Charles A. Litman, Mark A. Lundberg, Steven W. Mack, Lisa K. Maki, Peter C. | Reg. No. 30,837 Reg. No. 37,346 Reg. No. 37,850 Reg. No. 42,673 Reg. No. 7,650 Reg. No. 24,017 Reg. No. 40,052 Reg. No. 40,052 Reg. No. 41,136 Reg. No. 40,697 Reg. No. 36,198 Reg. No. 26,390 Reg. No. 30,568 Reg. No. 42,825 Reg. No. 42,832 | Mates, Robert E. McCrackin, Ann M. Nama, Kash Nielsen, Walter W. Oh, Allen J. Padys, Danny J. Parker, J. Kevin Peacock, Gregg A. Polglaze, Daniel J. Schwegman, Micheal L. Sieffert, Kent J. Slifer, Russell D. Steffey, Charles E. Terry, Kathleen R. Viksnins, Ann S. Woessner, Warren D. | Reg. No. 35,271 Reg. No. 42,858 Reg. No. 44,255 Reg. No. 25,539 Reg. No. 35,635 Reg. No. 33,024 Reg. No. P-45,001 Reg. No. 25,816 Reg. No. 41,312 Reg. No. 41,312 Reg. No. 25,179 Reg. No. 25,179 Reg. No. 31,884 Reg. No. 37,748 Reg. No. 30,440 |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| • | | • | 9 | • | |

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/ firin/organization/who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. to the contrary. Please direct all correspondence in this case to Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. at the address indicated below: P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 m Telephone No. (612)373-6900 TL I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. Full Name of joint inventor number 1: Leo Rubin Citizenship: **United States of America** Residence: Suffern, NY Post Office Address: 3 Lynne Court Suffern, NY 10901 Signature: Date: Leo Rubin Full Name of joint inventor number 2: Christopher A. Bonnerup United States of America Residence: Alvin, TX Citizenship:

Date:

Post Office Address:

5101 Aurora

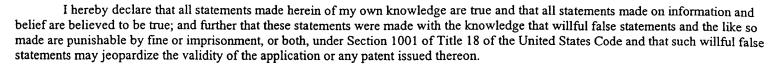
Alvin, TX 77511

Signature: Christopher A. Bonnerup

X Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets, attached hereto.

The pirity stands from the course of the pirity of the pir

Attorney Docket No.: 1080.311US1 Serial No. not assigned Filing Date: not assigned



Full Name of joint inventor number 3: Edward A. Schroeppel

Citizenship:

United States of America

Residence: Lake Jackson, TX

Post Office Address:

215 Dewberry Drive Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Signature: Date: July 22, 199
Edward A. Schroeppel

Attorney Docket No.: 1080.311US1 Serial No. not assigned Filing Date: not assigned

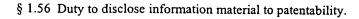
ŧ.

Ch Ch

4

U





- (a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
 - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

Aprima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.